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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,251	12/12/2003	Helder Da-Silva-Valente	2269-9-3	9814

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EXAMINER

TRAN, KHAI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2611

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/30/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/735,251

Applicant(s)

DA-SILVA-VALENTE ET AL.

Examiner

KHAI TRAN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6,9-1016-17,19-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7,8,11,15 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/12/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 15, 18 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Appropriate correction is required.

Regarding claim 1, line 2, the term "a point constellation" should be changed to -- a constellation point-- as set forth in claim 7, line 2; claim 8, line 2; claim 11, line 2; claim 15, lines 6-7; claim 18, lines 7-8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

1. Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding claims 11-14, it appears that applicant wants to claim a method in claim 11-14. However. He includes an abstract idea or calculations, that is directed to an algorithm for determining a concurrent point in a modulation technique including a point constellation that consists solely of the manipulation of abstract ideas that don't produce any practical application that produces a useful, concrete and tangible result, that is not statutory subject matter. See *In re Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d 1354, 1369, 31 USPQ2d 1754, 1759 (fed. Cir. 1994). See also *Schrader*, 22 F3. at 295, 30 USPQ2d at 1459. Claims 11-14 don't produce any practical application that produces a useful, concrete and tangible result *State Street*, 149 F.3d at 1373, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02 (emphasis added). Furthermore, the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e.,

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results in a claim which is not proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dumki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. V. Brenner*, 255F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 2-6, 9-10, 16-17, 19-20 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: none of the prior art of the record discloses or suggests that a method and apparatus for decoding a noisy signal provided from the coordinates of a point in a point constellation, each constellation point being associated with a digital data item of a determined number of bits, comprising steps of or means: determining a reference point associated with a digital reference data item and corresponding to the constellation point closest to the received point; determining at least one concurrent point corresponding to the constellation point closest to the reference point associated with a digital data item, having a bit of determined rank with a logic value opposite to the bit of determined rank of the reference data; and determining, at least for the bit of the reference digital data at said determined rank, a precision data item based on the received point, the reference point, and the concurrent point, wherein the determination of the bits of the digital data associated with the concurrent point is performed based on the values of some of the bits of the reference digital data and on said rank.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Ueno et al (US 2003/0185329 A1) discloses a diversity circuit.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KHAI TRAN whose telephone number is (571) 272-3019. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAY PATEL can be reached on (571) 272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



KHAI TRAN
Primary Examiner
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KT
March 28, 2007